

Minutes of the Meeting
State Soil Conservation Board
ISDA
Indianapolis IN 46204
April 11, 2006

Present

Bob Eddleman
Nola Gentry
Jim Cherry
Bill Mann
Warren Baird
Craig Beyrouty

Absent

Larry Clemens
Gary Langell

Others Present

Tammy Lawson
Waneta Lowe
Jerod Chew
Gene Weaver
DeeDee Sigler
Andrew Pelloso
Martha Mettler
Xavier Montoya
Steve Brown

- I. Bob Eddleman, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 9:02 a.m.
- II. Draft Minutes: March 14, 2006 were approved by Bill Mann as amended and seconded by Warren Baird, motion carried.
- III. Farm Service Agency - Steve Brown introduced himself as Acting Director of FSA, John Nidlinger retired. Steve mentioned he had attended the first meeting on district consolidations and saw good participation. Suggestions will be submitted later from the questionnaire being filled out.
- IV. Leadership Development
- A. Supervisor Resignations/Appointment: Waneta Lowe presented the recommendation and resignations of supervisors. Fayette County had a recommendation of Terry Hillman, due to the resignation of Matthew Sherck. Monroe County had a recommendation of Dan Derheimer due to the resignation of Jay Deck. Due to not having an election, Monroe County had a recommendation for temporary position for their E-06 position, of Scott McDonald until E-07. Decatur County had a recommendation of Robert F. Dawson, due to the resignation of V. Albert Armand.
- Jim Cherry motioned to approve, seconded by Craig Beyrouty, motion carried.
- B. Jerod Chew gave an update on the workgroup
1. Upcoming workshops are Aug 24, for supervisor's only and on September 8-9 supervisors in NE region. Bob Eddleman stated that the leadership development of SWCD supervisors will be a part of fulfilling the Partnership Strategic Plan.

2. Jerod said that Ripley County was the most recent District Visit. The District Visits team are continuing to work their way down the list. .

- C. SWCD Support/Updates: Jerod stated he was in the interviewing process for the 2 open District Support Specialist positions in the SE and Ctrl NE regions. The DSS are working with the Districts, answering questions on consolidation of districts, business plans, etc. A short discussion took place about the types of qualifications and individuals who are applying for these positions.

IV. Technology:

- A. A report on the Technology Workgroup activities was given by Tammy Lawson. She commented that Deb Fairhurst along with the group is working on improving technology and accountability as it applies to conservation service and implementation. A list of needed equipment is being compiled, along with needs for training and planning for the technical staff of the partnership.
- B. CIT Meetings: Jerod Chew stated that additional Division equipment is being purchased such as cell phones and blackberries. CIT equipment being considered would possibly include robotic survey equipment, GIS data management systems, and new software to accommodate the new hardware.

V. Delivery System:

- A. Jerod Chew stated that the delivery system work group would be meeting later this week to look at the next steps in the strategic plan and getting chore groups together to decide how to move forward with the delivery system.
- B. Jerod said that the CIT team leaders met on the 27th of March to discuss and evaluate the CIT structure and share ideas.

VI. Funding:

- A. Bob Eddleman said the workgroup needs to talk about the funding, to suggest ideas as to what is the role of the SSCB in making recommendations to the DSC, ISDA, Partnerships etc. Many issues exist with the discussions surrounding funding. ISDA is still working to offer staff support for this workgroup in the form of an economist. No definitive date was provided for when the staff will be employed. ISDA has begun the preliminary planning and request process for the next legislative session. Coordination within the partnership toward a funding campaign should be on track by August.
- B. Tammy Lawson said there were 62 hits for CWI grants from 42 counties. They are working on getting the contracts signed, etc. Over half of the counties that applied were funded. There was \$420,000 total in all. Bob Eddleman asked when the next round of funding were to occur for July and the types of grants would need to be decided. Tammy said it would be the end of April or May 1st when the next round of grants would need to be discussed. The process and applications could then be announced in July. Tammy said the DSS would be working with those districts to answer questions and support their grant preparation needs.
- C. Jerod Chew gave a brief update on the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program. Our tracking database shows that we have a total of 1070.4 acres and \$176,240.000 total state incentives allocated for the 3 CREP watersheds. These

numbers do not reflect the total amount of federal cost share and incentives that are also being leveraged for these projects. In general, for every state dollar being allocated for this program you can figure that approximately 7 federal dollars are being allocated.

Attachment

Rule 5: Tammy reported that payments to counties would begin within the next month. These payments are for the Rule 5 services that were provided in 2002-2005.

VII. Outreach:

A. Dee Dee Sigler provided an update of the workgroup. Exhibit outreach committee is included in that effort.

B. ICP Website: The DSC staff has been working to prepare the site and upon approval from the rest of the partnership, it will be ready for business.

C. Pathway To Water Quality: Tammy reported that the committee has been busy with organizational meetings. With the many changes that have taken place within the partnership, a new implementation plan is needed to coordinate all the activities and needs surrounding the pathway. The partnership leaders will be working to establish a new implementation plan. There will be signs, activities, events, and people knowledgeable to answer questions. The next outreach Pathway meeting will be April 21st.

D. DeeDee talked about the 2007 Annual Conference, January 16, 17, and 18th at the Indianapolis Marriott Hotel, the same as last year. March 20th they had a brain storming strategy meeting. May 10th is the next meeting to get ideas, etc.

VIII. Accountability:

A. Jerod Chew said they are creating a tracking database for the CWI Grants.

B. A CREP database is also in place to track cash and in-kind activities for accountability and reporting to USDA.

C. District Support??

IX. SSCB Chairman's Report

A. Bob Eddleman, reported briefly about the USDA consolidation meetings and the NRCS rent request from SWCDs. Much discussion took place with a coordinated message that each of the partners will need to keep conservation as the main focus and work to provide the best service to Indiana's landowners.

X. IDEM Report

A. Rule 5: Martha Mettler talked about Rule 5. They are asking Districts what their interests are. The survey is on hold at the present time. They have 4 positions open.

B. EPA 319: Andrew Pelloso said they would have new applications and guidance on project priority,

XI. State Association President's Report

A. Gene Weaver has attended the SWCD consolidation meetings. He also said that the rent issue from NRCS is a concern and needs more discussions are needed about the rent issue.

XII. NRCS State Conservationist's Report

1. Xavier Montoya talked about the state of the 2007 Farm Bill
2. They have 147 applications for CSP and the budget is tight.
3. Consolidations – comments and questions are being compiled for the workgroup to sift through as they prepare a recommendation for the FAC.
4. They are having Operational Improvement Team Meetings on Technologies, survey equipment, etc., looking at everything to streamline the process. CRP signups are really good in Indiana. (Attachment)

XIII. Public Comment:

None

XIV. SSCB Discussions

Bob Eddleman said they need to form a funding strategy committee.

Someone from the SSCB needs to attend the next Pathway to Water Quality outreach committee meeting.

SSCB board needs to form the Grant proposal finance committee again. Nola said the meeting is May 9th to gather ideas for other potential projects for SWCDs to do with new grants to be announced in June with the deadline in July or August.

There will not be a SSCB meeting in May, the next meeting will be in June.

Bill Mann motioned to adjourn, seconded by Craig Beyrouty and carried.

Meeting adjourned at 12: 25.

Minutes of the meeting prepared by Waneta J. Lowe